

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A surgical method comprising the steps of:

loading a suture strand through a flexible eyelet extending from a round, tapered proximal end of an insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor, the suture anchor comprising a series of truncated cones terminating at its distal end in a truncated cone with a blunt tip, the flexible eyelet comprising a loop of suture, a portion of which has been insert molded into the suture anchor;

attaching a hand driver to the suture anchor, the driver having a cannulated handle and a cannulated shaft extending from the handle, the cannulated shaft having a recess at a distal end thereof which receives the round, tapered proximal end of the suture anchor, the suture strand loaded through the flexible eyelet of the suture anchor being passed through the cannulated shaft and cannulated handle of the hand driver;

forming a hole in bone;

advancing, without turning, the insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor into the hole, using the hand driver; and

securing tissue to the insert molded ribbed suture anchor by passing the suture strand through the tissue and tying a knot with suture strand to secure the tissue.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of surgical tissue plication comprising the steps of:

plicating a section of tissue with a length of suture;

preparing a hole in bone near the plicated tissue;

loading a leg of the length of suture through an eyelet of an insert molded ribbed suture anchor;

positioning the ribbed suture anchor on a plication driver, the leg of the length of suture exiting through a slot in the side of the plication driver; and

advancing without turning the insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor into the hole.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) An insert-molded anchor assembly comprising:

a hand driver having a fully cannulated handle and a cannulated shaft with an open recess on an end of the shaft, ~~a slot extending through two opposed regions of a wall of the shaft, the slot being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft; and~~

an insert molded ribbed suture anchor comprising an anchor body molded around suture to form a suture loop, the suture loop extending outside the anchor body at the proximal end of the anchor, the proximal end of the anchor being round and tapered, the round, tapered proximal end of the suture anchor being received ~~positioned~~ in the recess on the end of the cannulated shaft of the hand driver, the anchor body comprising a plurality of adjacent truncated cones, the anchor body terminating at its distal end in a truncated cone with a blunt tip and a round cylindrical ~~drive head as a proximal end, the anchor body further comprising a proximal end and having a loop of the insert molded suture extending from the proximal end in the form of an eyelet; and~~

a suture strand which is loaded through the flexible eyelet of the suture anchor and passes through the cannulated shaft and cannulated handle of the hand driver.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently amended) A plication driver for a suture anchor, the driver comprising:

~~an enclosed~~ a cannulated shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end of the cannulated shaft having a round cylindrical recess for receiving a round, tapered proximal end of the suture anchor;

a cannulated handle attached to the proximal end of the shaft, the cannulated handle and the cannulated shaft of the driver receiving a suture strand loaded through a flexible eyelet of the suture anchor ~~a round cylindrical recess formed in the distal end of the shaft;~~ and

a distally open-ended slot formed as a narrow, elongate opening formed axially through two opposed regions of a wall of the shaft adjacent the recess and opening into the shaft cannula, the slot being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft, the slot having a closed end located along the shaft proximal to the recess.

Claims 12-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The insert-molded anchor assembly of claim 9, wherein the drive head is tapered.

Claims 18-23. (Canceled).